

300 fewer than in Robinsonton
the good *Distachnum* are in my
mind but one or at most two the
Lappas all one - the *Humidoris*
(*capitata officinalis minor* etc) all
one - the 30 or 40 *Rubis Heracium*,
Roses I should reduce to about
half a dozen of each - in short
the more I see of European
plants the more I am persuaded
that the northern ones have
never been better distinguished
and the real species better estimated
(in most cases) than by Linnaeus
whose truly philosophical views
and extraordinary ~~appreciation~~
methodical mind has never
been equalled before or since
his time -

This winter however I must work
at *Leguminosae perchartensis Flora*
Brazilensis - I have done *Guatemala*
Gallega & Hedysarea and just begun
at *Harcolae* - the enormous number
of fragmentary specimens published as
species occasion immense labour in
working out synonymy - a most unsatis-
factory operation

Vauxs Park 73

Sept 8 1856

My dear Gray

I had left town some
time when your letter of
the 20th July reached me and
have since then been visiting
about As this will still
continue till the end of next
month I do not delay long
in answering you although I
cannot in doing so consult ~~herbaria~~
I have no doubt whatever that
the *Acacia* you speak of is *A.*
tortuosa - the fruit you sketch
and describe is exactly the one of
that species. *A. Farnesiana* and *A.*
tortuosa are the two common
ones in the West Indies and
Central America and since
materials have accumulated on

our herbaria we are obliged to
admit that both are extremely
variable in foliage and often
scarcely to be distinguished from
each other without the fruit
I shall look again however at
the points you mention about
the shape of the flower - I
think it will turn out that
several of the species I have
admitted are but varieties of
the one or the other - *A. Cavendishii*
(the original one from Chile
and Buenos Ayres) has the fruit
of *parviflora* and is I think merely
a small leaved variety although
it is not impossible I may have
sometimes mistaken for it
small leaved varieties of *tortuosa*
- and if I do not misrecollect
macrocartha & *macrocarthaoides*
differ from *tortuosa* only in
foliage - but I shall go through
the whole subject carefully for

the *Flora Praeileana*

When you come to have large
sets of specimens of your
Western *Pentstemon*, I think
you will find many of them
very like your common Eastern
ones and that I have admitted
too many species - some of them
run into one another in cultivation
although the number we have
in our gardens is fast diminishing
California plants are not so much
in fashion as they were not
being so easily grown in bed as
the ~~Herbaria~~ *Belargonium* *Peltandra*
etc from the Southern hemisphere
- certainly *Pentstemon* very much
in the eye of the flower and the
breadth of their leaves

At odd times I have been
working my British Plants and if
I ever publish them according to my
own views I should enumerate
in ^{the} British Flora about 200 fewer
species than in that and Arn and

In the mean time our town ^{A3}
in the country has done us
a wonderful deal of good. Last
winter I had got into a very
uncomfortable state of digestion
which has now got quite right
again although I feel that
coming near upon 56 I cannot
do what I could at 26 and I
see little prospect of my
vigor lasting till I have
finished the various botanical
jobs I have in hand - I doubt
ever completing my monograph
of Leguminosae towards which
I have done so much

My wife joins me in
kindest remembrances to
yourself & Mr. Gray

Ever your most sincere

George Peckham